
INTRODUCTION

This report provides summary data for high school seniors taking the Scholastic Assessment Test known as SAT-I. Students take the test to provide colleges with information about how well they are prepared for a college-level curriculum. The SAT-I is the revised version of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). A description of this test can be located in appendix B of this report.

Students taking the SAT do not include all the students in a particular high school. Neither the State nor school districts are involved in funding or selecting the students who take this test. Instead, the SAT is administered by the College Board, a private company, and students register to take the test directly with the College Board. High schools provide registration forms and information to students about the test.

This report reflects reported scores for seniors who anticipated graduating in 2002. If a student takes the SAT as a junior, his or her scores are not reported until the following school year—the student's senior year. If students take the SAT more than once, the most recent score is used in the summary score report.

Data are summarized for seniors in the nation, in South Carolina, in the eighty-five school districts, and in the high schools in the State. The national and state summaries include seniors enrolled in both public and private high schools. School district and high school data summaries in this report include only public schools in the State.

The reporting of data summarized for students with twenty or more credits refers to students who have reported that their high school curriculum would include twenty or more academic credits. Academic courses, as recognized by the College Board, include credits in six academic areas: English, mathematics, natural science, foreign/classical languages, social science/history, and arts and music.

The scoring scale was recentered in spring 1995. The data in this summary report reflect the new, recentered scale. Data for the prior years for all students also are reported using the recentered scale.

Data are also available on the Department of Education's home page on the Internet <<http://www.myschools.com>>.

MAKING COMPARISONS OF SAT SCORES FOR GROUPS OF STUDENTS

There are some comparisons of SAT scores for groups of students that can be made fairly:

- comparisons across time (over years),
- comparisons between verbal and mathematical abilities, and
- comparison with the national average.

In the same way that a statement one makes can be taken out of context and used to imply something that goes beyond what was intended, a problem often occurs with test scores. It is unfair to compare scores across states, school districts, or schools without taking context into account.

A publication of the College Board, *Guidelines on the Uses of College Board Test Scores and Related Data*, discusses this topic. Factors beyond instruction affecting group performance results on the SAT are

- the participation rates (the percentage of students tested during the school year),
- the number of academic courses taken,
- the type of academic courses taken in high school,
- students' family backgrounds,
- the educational level of students' parents,
- the grade retention rates,
- the attrition or dropout rates,
- the graduation rates,
- the pupil/teacher ratios,
- the teachers' credentials,
- the expenditures per student, and
- the minority enrollment.

The participation rate for students in South Carolina is high, while number of academic courses tends to be low.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Students who take the SAT complete a demographic questionnaire, but some students do not respond to all the questions. The following table indicates the percentage of students who provided their ethnicity.

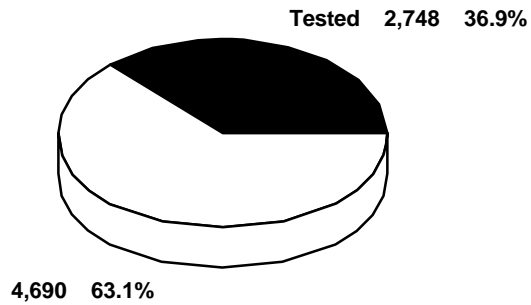
	Ethnicity	
	Indicated	Not Indicated
	87%	13%
	19,419	2,944

The SAT is administered in October, November, December, January, March, April, May, and June of each year. October of the senior year is the most popular time for students to take the test. Students may take the test more than once; the most recent score is used in the computation of the average SAT score. Test registration forms are available at the local high schools.

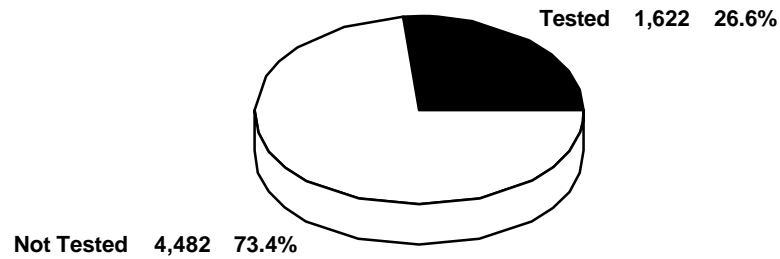
Year of Most Recent SAT Scores for Current Graduating Seniors						
Year of Most Recent SAT Administration	SOUTH CAROLINA			NATION		
	Number Tested	Percent Tested	Composite Score	Number Tested	Percent Tested	Composite Score
Senior year	17,551	78	975	948,663	71	1001
Junior year	4,610	21	1004	369,559	28	1068
Sophomore year	188	1	953	8,636	1	1033
Freshman year	14	0	963	973	0	1017
Total	22,363	100	981	1,327,831	100	1020

102 Percentage of South Carolina Public School Students Tested

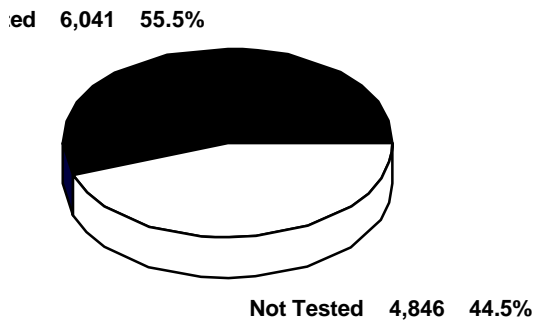
African-American Females



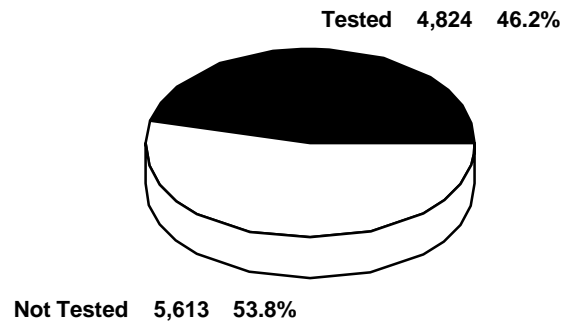
African-American Males



White Females



White Males



RECENTERING THE SAT SCORE REPORTING SCALE

The traditional SAT score reporting scale is a conversion of the raw score to a scale score that was anchored to a 1941 norm, or reference group, and established over fifty years ago. At the time the scale was established, a score of 500 was average. With a range of 200 to 800, scores of 400 to 600 were in the middle of the SAT score range. However, the 1941 population of ten thousand students who took the test consisted of a relatively small group and was an elite segment of the academic system. The original scale was representative of the students taking the test at that time but is not representative of the nation now, particularly the million-plus population applying for college today.

Beginning with 1996 SAT scores, recentering reset the midpoint of the score range at 500, the middle of the 200-to-800 scale based on the 1993 population, the new reference group. As a result, the recentered verbal and math scores can be examined on a comparable scale. On the original scale, a 424 verbal score was comparable to a 478 math score. Recentering eliminated confusion about differences in math and verbal scores. The meaning of “average” performance is now easier to understand. The use of 500 as average is again meaningful. Student scores are interpreted in percentiles that are comparisons of scores with the scores of others taking the test.

For additional information, see *The New SAT and Balancing the Scales*, a brochure published by the College Board’s Southern Regional Office. The College Board’s Internet home page contains additional information <www.collegeboard.com>.

Public School Students Meeting SAT Requirement for College Tuition Assistance (at four-year college or university)

Students with Scores of 1,100 or Higher*

	All Students	Females	Males	African Americans	Whites
Percent	28.7	25.6	32.8	7.0	37.2
Number	5,273	2,647	2,626	306	4,046
Tested	18,367	10,358	8,009	4,370	10,865

*For entering college freshmen in 2002, the LIFE Scholarship requirement is a score of at least 1,100. See appendix F for additional details.

PERFORMANCE FOR SOUTH CAROLINA AND THE NATION

The average SAT verbal score in South Carolina increased by 2 points between 2001 and 2002, from 486 to 488, while the national average verbal score decreased by 2 points, from 506 to 504. The average SAT math score in South Carolina increased by 5 points, from 488 to 493. Nationally, math scores increased by 2 points, from 514 to 516.

	SOUTH CAROLINA	NATION
Verbal		
Change in verbal from last year	+2	-2
Change in verbal from 1998 to 2002	+10	-1
Mathematics		
Change in math from last year	+5	+2
Change in math from 1998 to 2002	+20	+4
Composite score gain from 1998 to 2002	+30	+3

This year, SAT averages were released for students taking the SAT who expected to take the twenty or more academic credits recommended by the College Board. In 2001–02, the composite score for those students in South Carolina was 1050, and the composite score for the nation was 1096.

	SOUTH CAROLINA	NATION
Twenty or More Academic Credits		
Number	8,337	481,007
Percent		
All Students	52	52
Females	63	60
Males	37	40
Composite Score	1050	1096
Verbal	524	543
Math	526	553

STATE RESULTS

The SAT is primarily used in twenty-three states and the District of Columbia as a college admissions test. The percentage of seniors who elect to take the SAT ranges from a low of 52 percent in California and Alaska to a high of 83 percent in Connecticut. The SAT states are listed below in participation rate order.

Average SAT Scores by State 2002				
	Participation Rate	Verbal	Math	Composite Score
Connecticut	83%	509	509	1018
New Jersey	82%	498	513	1011
Massachusetts	81%	512	516	1028
New York	79%	494	506	1000
District of Columbia	76%	480	473	953
New Hampshire	73%	519	519	1038
Rhode Island	73%	504	503	1007
Pennsylvania	72%	498	500	998
Delaware	69%	502	500	1002
Maine	69%	503	502	1005
Vermont	69%	512	510	1022
Virginia	68%	510	506	1016
Maryland	67%	507	513	1020
North Carolina	67%	493	505	998
Georgia	65%	489	491	980
Indiana	62%	498	503	1001
South Carolina	59%	488	493	981
Florida	57%	496	499	995
Oregon	56%	524	528	1052
Texas	55%	491	500	991
Washington	54%	525	529	1054
Hawaii	53%	488	520	1008
Alaska	52%	516	519	1035
California	52%	496	517	1013

Source: College Board, 2002

Appendix C provides data for all states.

STATE PARTICIPATION RATE

States with Highest Participation Rates in 2002

State	Participation Rate	Verbal	Math	Composite Score
Connecticut	83%	509	509	1018
New Jersey	82%	498	513	1011
Massachusetts	81%	512	516	1028
New York	79%	494	506	1000
District of Columbia	76%	480	473	953

States with Lowest Participation Rates in 2002

State	Participation Rate	Verbal	Math	Composite Score
Arkansas	5%	560	556	1116
Iowa	5%	591	602	1193
South Dakota	5%	576	586	1162
Mississippi	4%	559	547	1106
North Dakota	4%	597	610	1207

ANALYSIS OF SOUTH CAROLINA DATA

When the 2002 performance is compared with the 1998 performance, the average verbal score has increased 10 points in South Carolina, as compared to a decrease of 1 point within that time period for the nation. The average math score increased by 20 points in South Carolina, as compared to an increase of 4 points for the nation.

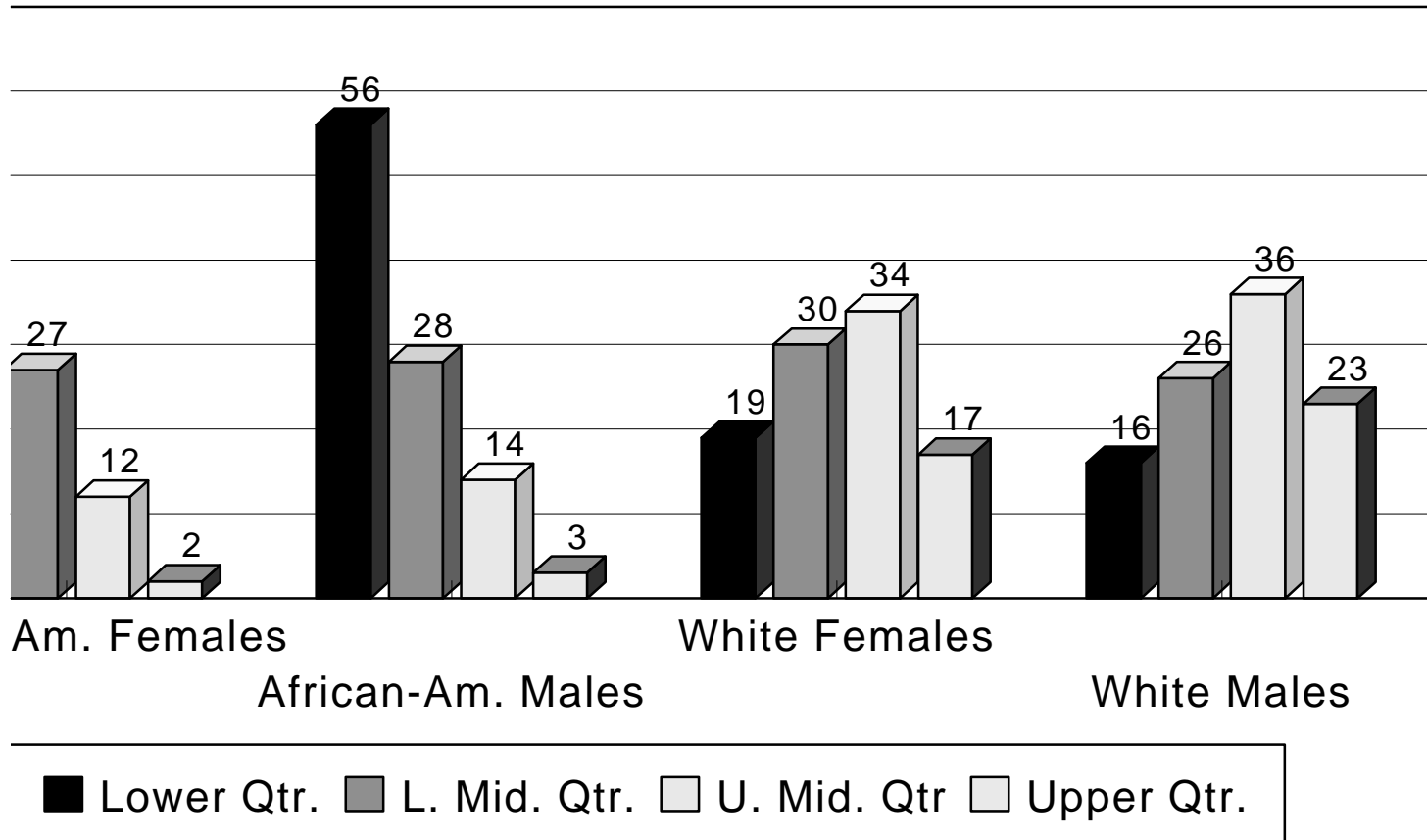
South Carolina and National Average SAT Scores 1998–2002						
Year	SOUTH CAROLINA			NATION		
	Verbal	Math	Composite Score	Verbal	Math	Composite Score
1998	478	473	951	505	512	1017
1999	479	475	954	505	511	1016
2000	484	482	966	505	514	1019
2001	486	488	974	506	514	1020
2002	488	493	981	504	516	1020
1998–2002	+10	+20	+30	-1	+4	+3

A comparison of scores by national quarter shows the gap in performance by ethnicity. The table below, as well as the chart on the following page, illustrate the differences.

Performance in Each National Quarter in 2002*				
(South Carolina Public School Students)				
	Lower Quarter	Lower Middle	Upper Middle	Upper Quarter
All students	30	27	28	15
African-American females	60	27	12	2
African-American males	56	28	14	3
White females	19	30	34	17
White males	16	26	36	23
National (all students)	25	25	25	25

*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Percentage of South Carolina Public School Students Scoring in Each National Quarter for 2002



DATA BY GENDER

The average SAT verbal score for females in South Carolina increased by 3 points between 2001 and 2002, from 482 to 485. The average SAT math score for females increased by 5 points between 2001 and 2002, from 475 to 480.

The average SAT verbal score for males in South Carolina decreased by 1 point between 2001 and 2002, from 492 to 491. The average SAT math score for males increased by 3 points between 2001 and 2002, from 506 to 509.

	SOUTH CAROLINA		NATION	
	Females	Males	Females	Males
Verbal				
Change in verbal from last year	+3 (482 to 485)	-1 (492 to 491)	0 (502)	-2 (509 to 507)
Mathematics				
Change in math from last year	+5 (475 to 480)	+3 (506 to 509)	+2 (498 to 500)	+1 (533 to 534)

From 1998 to 2002 the average SAT composite score for females increased 31 points; the composite score for males increased 26 points.

Average SAT Scores and Point Change South Carolina and Nation by Gender								
Subgroup	Test	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1998–02 State Change	2002 Nation
Females	Verbal	474	476	482	482	485	+11	502
	Math	460	461	469	475	480	+20	500
Males	Verbal	483	484	487	492	491	+8	507
	Math	491	494	500	506	509	+18	534

* Average SAT scores converted to recentered scale for comparison purposes.

DATA BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF PARENTS

Students indicate the educational level of their parents when completing the SAT registration application.

Parental Educational Levels Reported by Students High School Diploma or Less Reported in Percentages					
South Carolina			Nation		
	All			All	
<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
42	40	40	37	36	37

DATA BY ETHNICITY

In 2002, a larger percentage of South Carolina seniors elected to take the SAT compared to the national percentage.

	SOUTH CAROLINA		NATION	
	#	%	#	%
Graduating seniors Tested	22,363	59	1,327,831	46
African Americans	4,965	N/A	122,684	N/A
Whites	13,265	N/A	698,659	N/A
Other categories of ethnicity*	1,189	N/A	253,870	N/A

*Note: Not all students respond to questions about themselves, so subtotals for ethnicity do not sum to the total tested.

African-American students continue to make lower scores on the SAT than white students. The average verbal score for African-American students was 418 and 515 for white students. The average mathematics score was 421 for African-American students and 519 for white students.

The average SAT verbal score for African-American students decreased by 2 points between 2001 and 2002, from 420 to 418. The average SAT math score remained the same at 421.

The average SAT verbal score for white students increased by 1 point to 515 between 2001 and 2002. The average SAT math score increased by 4 points, from 515 to 519.

	SOUTH CAROLINA		NATION	
	African Americans	Whites	African Americans	Whites
Verbal				
Change in verbal from last year	-2 (420 to 418)	+1 (514 to 515)	-3 (433 to 430)	-2 (529 to 527)
Mathematics				
Change in math from last year	0 (421)	+4 (515 to 519)	+1 (426 to 427)	+2 (531 to 533)

From 1998 to 2002 African-American students' scores increased by 18 points, from 821 to 839 in the average SAT composite score, while the average SAT composite score for white students increased by 24, to 1,034 points.

Average SAT Scores and Point Change								
South Carolina and Nation by Ethnic Group								
Ethnic Group	Test	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1998–2002 State Change	2002 Nation
African-American	Verbal	414	415	419	420	418	4	430
	Math	407	407	414	421	421	14	427
White	Verbal	508	509	512	514	515	7	527
	Math	502	504	510	515	519	17	533

SOUTH CAROLINA								
	2001				2002			
	#	%	Verbal	Math	#	%	Verbal	Math
American Indian	115	1	470	482	109	1	484	479
Asian American	439	2	490	539	451	2	498	551
African-American	5,341	27	420	421	4,965	26	418	421
Mexican American	84	0	461	462	88	0	463	471
Puerto Rican	63	0	497	484	65	0	465	460
Other Hispanic	137	1	496	490	136	1	487	495
White	13,084	67	514	515	13,265	68	515	519
Other	270	1	496	486	340	2	501	491
No response	2,476	*	483	483	2,944	*	485	489

* Not included in calculating percentages.

NATION								
	2001				2002			
	#	%	Verbal	Math	#	%	Verbal	Math
American Indian	7,622	1	481	479	7,506	1	479	483
Asian American	102,312	10	501	566	103,242	10	501	569
African-American	120,506	11	433	426	122,684	11	430	427
Mexican American	46,849	4	451	458	48,255	4	446	457
Puerto Rican	14,074	1	457	451	14,273	1	455	451
Other Hispanic	40,249	4	460	465	41,627	4	458	464
White	703,724	66	529	531	698,659	65	527	533
Other	38,680	4	503	512	38,967	4	502	514
No response	202,304	*	497	510	252,618	*	501	516

* Not included in calculating percentages.

DATA BY CLASS RANK

Seniors who self-report high class ranks in high school have higher scores than seniors who self-report lower class ranks. Students in South Carolina who reported themselves in the top 10 percent of their class had an SAT average verbal score of 564 and an average SAT math score of 576.

Scores by Class Rank				
	Verbal		Math	
	South Carolina	Nation	South Carolina	Nation
Top tenth	564	585	576	607
Second tenth	507	522	515	539
Second fifth	469	485	475	495
Third fifth	435	448	435	449

DATA BY GRADE POINT AVERAGE*

High School Grade Point Average	South Carolina SAT Test Takers		South Carolina SAT Mean Scores		Nation SAT Test Takers		Nation SAT Mean Scores	
	Number	Percent	Verbal	Math	Number	Percent	Verbal	Math
A+ (97–100)	1,366	7	583	597	74,538	7	607	626
A (93–96)	3,367	17	544	553	188,151	17	565	582
A- (90–92)	2,871	15	518	526	186,021	17	538	553
B (80–89)	9,320	48	466	467	505,614	47	479	486
C (70–79)	2,360	12	413	415	119,962	11	424	425
D, E, or F (below 70)	34	0	409	406	3,734	0	404	409
No response	3,045	**			249,811	**		

*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

**Not included in calculating percentages.

DISTRICTS ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

The SAT is reported for high school seniors for each of the eighty-five school districts in South Carolina. Not all students in a district take the SAT; the percentage of students tested, by district, ranged from a low of 13 percent in Hampton District Two to a high of 76 percent in School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties and York District Four in 2002.

In 2002, the average SAT composite score of eleven school districts exceeded the national average SAT composite score of 1020.

District	2001			2002		
	Percent Tested	Number Tested	Composite Score	Percent Tested	Number Tested	Composite Score
Anderson 1	45	164	989	49	199	1037
Anderson 2	44	74	960	33	67	1030
Anderson 5	56	314	988	52	289	1026
Kershaw	46	206	1021	35	200	1056
Lexington 1	66	595	1060	62	581	1055
Lexington 5	75	676	1063	76	757	1064
Oconee	45	231	1002	49	264	1032
Pickens	54	413	1026	61	514	1032
Spartanburg 5	54	159	957	53	165	1037
Spartanburg 6	58	313	1043	56	306	1040
York 4	75	197	1047	76	214	1066

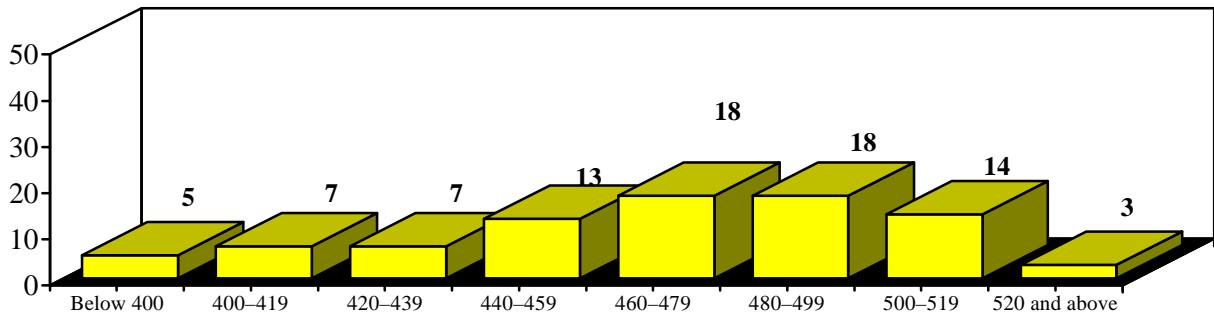
PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Data are not available for individual private schools. The state data by type of high school are provided here:

Type of High School	Students Tested	Composite Scores
Public	18,522	984
Private	2,286	1026
Religiously affiliated	1,127	1042
Independent	1,159	1010
Not indicated	1,555	[data not compiled]

DISTRICT AVERAGE SAT SCORES

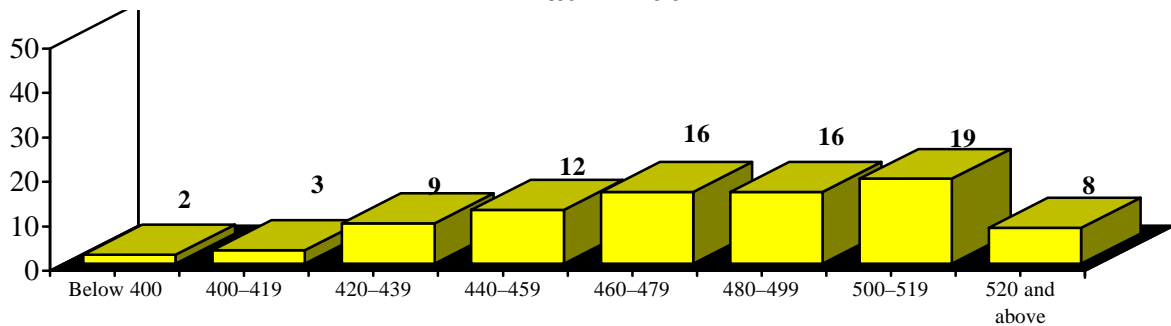
**Number of South Carolina School Districts in
SAT Score Intervals
Verbal - 2002**



National Average Score: 504

State Average Score: 488

**Number of South Carolina School Districts in
SAT Score Intervals
Math - 2002**



National Average Score: 516

State Average Score: 493

HIGH SCHOOLS ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

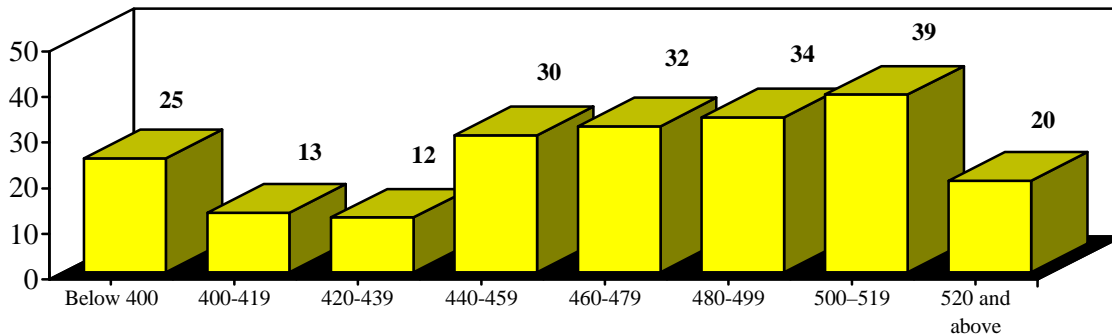
The SAT is reported for high school seniors by high school. In South Carolina, the percentage of seniors who elected to take the SAT ranges from a low of 9 percent at C.E. Murray High School in the Williamsburg School District to a high of 100 percent at Mayo High School for Math, Science, and Technology in the Darlington School District.

In 2002, forty-one public high schools, the Governor's School for Science and Math, and the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities had average SAT composite scores that exceeded the 2002 national average SAT composite score of 1020.

District	School	2001			2002		
		Tested %	#	Composite Score	Tested %	#	Composite Score
Aiken	Silver Bluff High	49	81	1015	47	78	1030
Aiken	South Aiken High	73	194	1054	75	206	1065
Anderson 1	Palmetto High	27	38	979	33	46	1021
Anderson 1	Wren High	56	126	993	57	153	1041
Anderson 2	Belton-Honea Path High	44	74	960	33	67	1030
Anderson 5	T L Hanna High	71	221	980	67	182	1030
Anderson 5	Westside High	37	93	1006	38	107	1022
Berkeley	Stratford High	49	249	1000	51	264	1035
Charleston	Wando High	80	341	1003	73	349	1024
Charleston	Charleston School of the Arts	95	62	1058	87	69	1050
Charleston	Academic Magnet High	106	104	1210	96	93	1195
Chesterfield	McBee High	44	27	953	24	14	1048
Darlington	Mayo High for Math, Science, & Tech	93	70	1041	101	86	1040
Georgetown	Andrews High	29	27	972	36	35	1025
Georgetown	Waccamaw High	87	76	1007	77	78	1061
Greenville	Eastside High	88	200	1063	86	181	1059
Greenville	Greenville High	72	127	1001	67	150	1044
Greenville	Wade Hampton High	72	149	983	59	142	1037
Greenville	Riverside High	92	232	1093	88	249	1104
Horry	Aynor High	22	22	1035	33	38	1076
Horry	Green Sea Floyds High	43	33	944	36	22	1026
Horry	Carolina Forest High	46	99	1009	51	91	1071
Kershaw	Camden High	43	82	1053	39	86	1049
Kershaw	Lugoff-Elgin High	64	105	999	39	92	1080
Lexington 1	Gilbert High	63	80	1023	46	71	1056
Lexington 1	Lexington High	87	430	1076	81	354	1058
Lexington 1	Pelion High	31	34	1039	29	30	1047
Lexington 1	White Knoll High	30	51	991	52	126	1045
Lexington 5	Chapin High	71	139	1063	76	148	1076
Lexington 5	Irmo High	89	293	1052	83	338	1047
Lexington 5	Dutch Fork High	65	242	1076	68	269	1076
Oconee	Seneca Senior High	53	91	1019	54	101	1030
Oconee	Walhalla Senior High	38	64	1010	52	87	1043
Oconee	West-Oak Senior High	45	67	972	39	62	1039
Pickens	D W Daniel High	71	128	1065	79	174	1084
Pickens	Pickens Senior High	48	97	984	59	137	1024
Richland 1	Dreher High	86	180	1030	88	217	1059
Richland 2	Spring Valley High	76	270	1015	67	258	1024
Spartanburg 5	James F Byrnes High	54	159	957	53	165	1037
Spartanburg 6	Dorman High	58	313	1043	56	306	1040
York 4	Fort Mill High	75	197	1047	76	214	1066
	Gov. Sch. for Science & Math		59	1337		40	1369
	Gov. Sch. For the Arts & Humanities		112	1128		96	1106

HIGH SCHOOL AVERAGE SAT SCORES

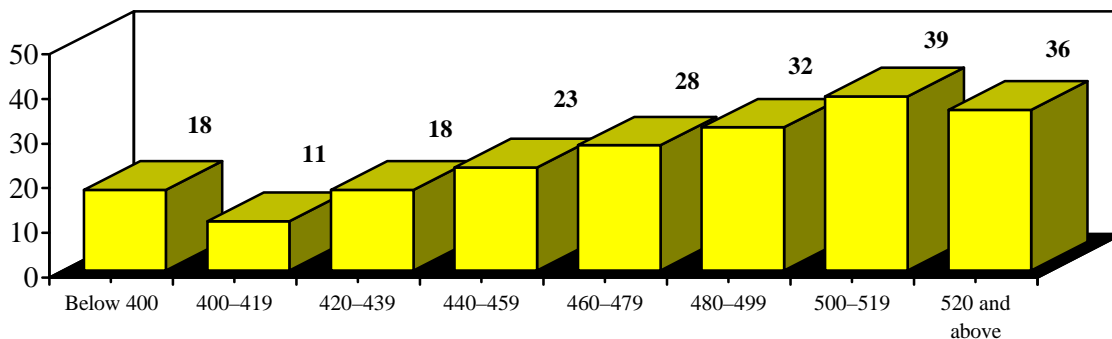
**Number of South Carolina High Schools in
SAT Score Intervals
Verbal - 2002**



National Average Score: 504

State Average Score: 488

**Number of South Carolina High Schools in
SAT Score Intervals
Math - 2002**



National Average Score: 516

State Average Score: 493